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Elaine Webster
Chief, Development Office

Elaine Webster became head of the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Development Office in 2010. She is responsible for the museum's fundraising programs including annual and project support as well as the long term endowment needs of the museum.

Since joining the museum in 2004 as a Development Officer, Webster has raised the profile of its programs and has built on the excitement and support generated by the museum's grand opening in 2006, following a major renovation of its historic building. She has invigorated the museum's corporate sponsorship program, created a national advisory council, and attracted illustrious speakers such as Tony Bennett and Jenny Holzer to the annual Director's Circle event. She also established the museum's annual benefit ARTrageous, which has become one of the museum's most popular events.

Webster has been fundraising in the Washington, D.C. area for nearly two decades. Previously, she managed corporate memberships at the European Institute from 1999 to 2003, and the non-government services for the American diplomatic community in Brussels, Belgium from 1995 to 1998. She earned a master's degree in historical museum administration from Eastern Illinois University and bachelor's degree in history from Iowa State University. Webster learned to love the museum experience while working at the Iowa Living History Farms in Des Moines.

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